

3		6	5	8	1	4	2	9
	1	5	2	9	6	7		3
9	8	2		4	3	1	5	6
8	2		9	5	7	3	6	1
6	9	7	3		8	5	4	2
5	3	1	4	6	2		7	8
7	6	9	8	3		2	1	4
1		3	6	2	4	8	9	
2	4	8	1	7	9	6		5

How to Play Sudoku?

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

The first things to do in tackling a Sudoku puzzle is to scan the rows and columns to see where a certain number might go, given the 3 constraints listed above. For example, the fact that a 7 is required in the top right corner can be determined by first analyzing its 9 square sub-region. The only numbers missing in the region are a 5 and a 7. However, putting a 5 in the top right box would conflict with the 5 already in the top row and the rightmost column. The 7, on the other hand, would not conflict with any of the given numbers.

	8			7	3	2	5	4
	4	1	8	9	2		6	3
3	2	7		4	6			8
9	3	4	6	1	5	8		
1	6	8	2		7	5	4	9
		5	4	8	9	6	3	1
7			3	6		4	8	5
8	5		9	2	4	1	7	
4	1	6	7	5			9	

Once the 7 is filled in, deduction requires that only a 5 can go beneath it as all digits from 1 through 9 must be represented in the region. From there, one can turn to the two remaining open boxes in the right column – these must include a 2 and a 4 as the column's digits must represent 1 through 9. One of these options, placing the 4 beneath the 1, would lead to a conflict with the 4 already in that horizontal row, so the only option for this box must be a 2.

		4	7	2		9		
	3	9			8			5
		1	5		6			4
	4			1		5	2	
	2	8		5		1	7	
	1	6		3			9	
4			9		1	3		
1			3			8	4	
		7		8	5	6		

However, options for boxes are often not that easy to deduce. Another technique is to "pencil in" possibilities and then follow the possible solutions that emerge until a conflict is found. Often these conflicts appear after 2 or 3 numbers are penciled in, and one can return to the start and try the next option until something clicks. The great thing about Sudoku is that every step makes the next step easier by narrowing possibilities. Every solved box makes filling the next box a little bit easier.

from <http://www.sudokudaily.net/instructions/>